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MAZDA TOURS

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Money

Levy: Government in distress over Oslo Accords

"THIS is a government in distress, and that's the whole truth," Foreign Minister David Levy told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He said the problems derived from the Oslo Accords, which had been "forced upon it." According to an official briefing, Levy said: "Taking the middle road between the heart's desires and the difficult objective situation will not satisfy either side."

"This is a government which determined that it would not abandon the settlers, and that is a diplomatic, moral, and political commitment. Anyone who thought that when this government was formed it would renge on this commitment will be disappointed."

Levy strongly criticized the Oslo Accords, but stressed the government's commitment, albeit unwilling, to them. "If it wasn't for Oslo I'd know exactly what to do but we're [caught] in a process which has been started."

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

"delayed." He complained it was a shame to waste time but Arafat had decided to travel instead of signing.

He also complained of Arafat's recent statements, saying that even when Arafat translates "jihad" as a "devotion," the Palestinians understand it to mean "a holy war."

Despite the absence of Arafat and US peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross, Israel and the Palestinian Authority continued with talks on Hebron redeployment yesterday.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accused the Palestinians of delaying the agreement. "One of the reasons the Palestinian side is holding up its completion is that it assumes...any time the Arab side alleges there is a problem in moving forward, Israel's government will be blamed," Netanyahu said in a speech in Tel Aviv.

Ross, ending three weeks of talks aimed at concluding a Hebron deal, left yesterday for Washington. Arafat was in Norway, on the first leg of a European tour. He is expected back in Gaza at the end of the week. (Story, Page 2)

Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian Authority negotiators convened in a Tel Aviv hotel in further pursuit of a deal.

"We have some difficult issues that we still have to deal with, but we are close and I hope that we can make some more progress when Chairman Arafat returns and we have a chance to go over these issues with him," US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk told reporters as he entered the hotel.

On Monday, the United States said Arafat alone could not be blamed for the failure so far to reach agreement.

"It's wrong and I think it's also not consistent with the facts to point at Chairman Arafat

and say: 'He's the guy holding these talks up'." State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"I would just look at both of them [Israelis and Palestinians] and say they're both responsible, and they're only going to get an agreement when both of them cross the line together," Burns told reporters in Washington.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said his team was in touch with Arafat hourly and had been ordered by the Palestinian leader to reach an agreement "as soon as possible."

"We still have our major differences," he said.

The Palestinian Information Ministry issued a statement yesterday claiming that the Netanyahu government "does not have any intention of implementing the agreement," knowing that the Palestinians will not agree to renegotiate the existing agreements.

ment circumstances and to protect their interests and rights.

However, Foreign Minister David Levy played down rumors of a military confrontation.

"There is a flood of statements and it is not healthy. It will achieve the opposite results. If I were an outsider, I would have reached the conclusion that Israel is terrified," he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He said Syrian President Hafez Assad must understand that even if he intends on using a limited action to get the peace process moving again, he could lose.

Levy said that peace in the Middle East would not be possible without peace with Syria. In response to a demand by MK Gideon Ezra (Likud) to pull out of the security zone in South Lebanon, Levy said the problems in Lebanon also could not be resolved without peace with Syria.

Assad had reason to be disappointed with the previous government on at least three occasions, Levy continued.

"Even if there was nothing written or signed, statements gave him reason to believe he had a commitment from the Rabin government to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Did the US

Coalition expected to muster majority for budget vote

EVELYN GORDON

THE government still lacked a majority for the 1997 budget last night, but was confident that one would be found before the vote this afternoon.

The wheeling and dealing easily upstaged the start of the plenum debate on the budget, which consisted largely of predictable attacks from all sides of the house delivered to an empty hall.

The two outstanding problems are Yisrael Ba'aliya and Geshet, which together comprise 12 MKs. There is also still a chance that a few renegade Likud MKs might vote against as well. However, Yisrael Ba'aliya chairman Natan Sharansky was to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor late last night, and both sides expected they would be able to reach an agreement.

Yisrael Ba'aliya's main demands are the building of 4,500 hostel apartments for physically and mentally handicapped immigrants, plus some NIS 25 million in stipends for immigrant scientists. The budget contains funds for only 200 hostel units, at a cost of NIS 140m. Meridor has expressed willingness in principle to discuss these demands, but the party says a general promise is insufficient; it wants either a written commitment or a detailed, specific oral promise.

"We don't trust the statement that 'everything will be okay,'" said faction chairman Roman Bronfman. "Until now there has been no progress whatsoever on the disputed issues. The Treasury staff has systematically sabotaged everything."

A deal with Geshet seems less likely, since the faction is demanding that several major changes in the social welfare section of the budget be made in the next 24 hours. Netanyahu was planning to talk to party leader and Foreign Minister David Levy last night, but Geshet's votes are not actually necessary if Yisrael Ba'aliya supports the budget.

"Whoever doesn't vote for the budget shows that he is not an equal among equals, but above all the rest," said an exasperated (Continued on Page 9)



Protesters at last night's rally in Jerusalem demonstrate in favor of Jewish settlement in Hebron. (Brian Hendler)

Thousands show support for Jewish settlement in Hebron

HERB KEINON

A CROWD Israel Radio estimated at 10,000 people braved the rain and demonstrated last night in downtown Jerusalem in support of the Jewish settlement in Hebron, then marched to the nearby US Consulate, where they called on the US not to pressure Israel into redeploying in the city.

Speaker after speaker at the rally took pains to stress that the protest was not against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, but rather in support of retaining control in Hebron.

Kiryat Arba Chief Rabbi Dov Lior said that the rally was to give the government "strength to stand up to the gentiles, and not to give up parts of the homeland. We have come to strengthen your [Netanyahu's] hand, and show that there is massive support for standing firm on the issue of Hebron."

National Religious Party activist Rabbi Haim Druckman said that Netanyahu "is our prime minister. Be strong, don't collapse, don't surrender. Do what you want, which is for the settlement to grow and develop. Don't give in to pressures, either from abroad or from within."

Some 20 Peace Now activists, calling for the Hebron settlement to be uprooted, held a vigil a few meters away from the rally, on the sidewalk near the Prime Minister's Residence. Peace Now general secretary Moshe Raz said they wanted to protest closer to the rally, but were not allowed to do so by the police.

A number of Kach activists were also in attendance at the rally, and distributed a bumper sticker with a picture of Netanyahu and Arafat shaking hands, and the slogan: "This combination is dangerous to Israel."

Although the speakers, including deputy education minister Moshe Peled, were careful not to criticize Netanyahu, the same can't be said of their treatment of Shimon Peres.

Nadia Matar, head of the Women in Green, said that Peres is the head of an "anti-Jewish, anti-Zionistic minority" which Netanyahu has to stand up against.

One of the protesters, Kiryat Arba resident Ya'acov Garba, who was holding a sign that read "Don't give them more guns," said that the demonstration was not against Netanyahu, but meant primarily to help him deflect US pressure, and "show the Americans that hundreds of thousands of people in Israel want Hebron to stay under Israeli control."

Hebron settlers angered by visit of Abed-Rabbo, Tibi

JON IMMANUEL and HERB KEINON

SETTLERS in Hebron yesterday jostled and demanded the removal of a visiting minister of the Palestinian Authority and an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, calling them terrorists and recalling the massacre of Jews by Arabs in Hebron in 1929.

The visit by Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo and Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi, accompanied by Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, surprised settlers and sparked a shouting confrontation that lasted until paratroopers were sent in to prevent violence.

Last week a visit by Labor MK Yael Dayan ended with a cup of scalding tea allegedly being thrown in her face.

Reacting to yesterday's visit, a son of Rabbi Moshe Levinger warned of a "second Tarpat," a reference to the year 1929 when 67 Jews among the several hundred in Hebron were killed by Arab rioters.

Tibi and Abed-Rabbo had just come from the funeral of 11-year-old Hilmi Shoushi, who allegedly was beaten to death on Sunday by the Hadar Betar security chief.

"Palestinians inside or outside the Green Line cannot accept the presence of these people here as inciters," Tibi said.

Hebron settlement head Noam Arnon said that the delegation's visit was a "provocation from representatives of a terrorist organiza-

Syria is not preparing to attack, says Shara

LIAT COLLINS, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and news agencies

SYRIAN Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday that Syria is not preparing to attack Israel and accused Israeli leaders of voicing the charge in order to avoid making peace.

"Allegations... that Syria is escalating the situation and massing troops to launch a surprise attack are baseless," Shara said.

"Such allegations coming from the Israeli government are aimed at evading the peace process and the basis on which it was built," he said at Damascus Airport while seeing off his Russian counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov.

An editorial appearing yesterday in Syria's government-owned *Al-Bath* newspaper makes stronger charges - accusing Israel of bracing for war - and warns Arabs that it is time to consider options other than the peace process.

"The Israeli government is preparing the region for a new war as an alternative to peace and is beating the drums of war," the editorial reads.

"The Arabs have submitted for peace everything which is demanded from them," it continues. "But now, it is high time for them to deal with Israel in the only style it can understand and to look for new alternatives."

The newspaper also said Arabs must move quickly to face the cur-

'L'Express': French ex-defense minister was East bloc agent

PARIS (Reuters) - A former French defense minister, the late Charles Hernu, was paid as an agent of the Soviet Union and other East bloc countries in the 1950s and 1960s, a French magazine said yesterday.

"Charles Hernu was an agent of the East," the weekly *L'Express* said. Hernu, defense minister from 1981 to 1985 under Socialist president Francois Mitterrand, died in 1990.

The magazine said Hernu was spotted as a rising political star by a Bulgarian spy in Paris in 1953, and was paid by Bulgaria, Romania, and the Soviet Union until at least 1963 for writing reports about French politics.

L'Express said Mitterrand was informed in 1992 of the payments to Hernu by French counter-intelligence chief Jacques Pourmet and ordered the scandal covered up as a state secret. Mitterrand, a personal friend of Hernu, left power in May 1995 and died last January.

Suissa lowers restrictions for obtaining gun license

Jerusalem Post Staff

INTERIOR Minister Eli Suissa yesterday approved loosening the restrictions for obtaining a gun license.

Last October, the Interior Ministry had issued new guidelines for granting gun licenses to private citizens. Since then, the ministry has received numerous requests, from groups and individuals, that the new guidelines be modified.

The changes include:

- Lowering the minimum age for a private license from 21 to 20.
- Lowering the minimum rank of IDF, police, or Prisons Service

personnel automatically granted licenses from lieutenant-colonel in the IDF to second-lieutenant, or the equivalent rank in the police or Prisons Service.

"To automatically approve applications by combat veterans.

"Any officer serving in the IDF can receive a license regardless of age or amount of time spent in the country, who has the recommendation of a superior with at least the rank lieutenant-colonel. This applies as well to soldiers serving in combat units.

Labor faction leader Ra'anan (Continued on Page 2)

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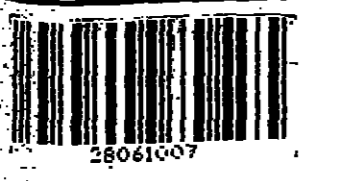
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Mubarak accuses Israel of threatening war

SHARM E-SHEIKH (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak accused Israel yesterday for threatening war, saying that Israel will not benefit from the Middle East war.

Mubarak was speaking to reporters after three hours of talks with Jordan's King Hussein in Amman.

The two leaders also called on Israel to honor its peace commitments, saying that failure to do so would destroy the entire East peace process.

Addressing a joint news conference, they repeated their call for a joint effort to bring peace to the area, but said that the United Nations would not replace it.

"I call on the Israeli government to threaten war from a position of strength, because this is a death sentence which will damage the peace process," Mubarak said in a statement.

"We are spending billions of dollars on the war, but we are not getting anything out of it. It is not in the interest of the Arab world to continue to finance a dangerous threat which has very grave consequences," he said.

Mubarak did not name Israel as the threat, but he was apparently referring to Syria.

The warning came one day after Mubarak said his country would not join the Syrian move to force Israel to accept a ceasefire.

"We are experiencing an acute shortage of gas, and we are not able to work the path of a ceasefire," Mubarak said.

"The Palestinians are afraid of us, and we are afraid of them," he said, referring to the "peace process."

"We are committed to a peaceful solution, but we are not committed to a unilateral one," he said.

"We are also making every effort to bring about a ceasefire."

Jordan, Israel discuss transport technicalities

AMMAN (AP) — Jordanian and Israeli transport officials opened talks yesterday on technical and security issues related to the movement of passengers, vehicles, and goods between the countries.

The talks come eight months after the two countries signed a transport cooperation agreement in line with their 1994 peace treaty.

Among other things, the transport agreement allows vehicles from both sides to cross into the other country's territory.

Israeli and Jordanian officials were tight-lipped about the outcome of yesterday's 90-minute meeting. The meeting's agenda, obtained from Jordanian and Israeli officials, showed that both sides sought to discuss technical issues such as vehicle's insurance cost and duration, cargo crossing and handling fees at border points, and removing restrictions on ferry lines.

Transport Ministry deputy director-general Nabum Langental and his Jordanian counterpart, Issa Ayyoub, declined to spell out what the problems were.

"We started to discuss [problems]," Langental said. "We will come to conclusion next week, or next month, we decided to take some points ... to subcommittees."

Hundreds of pensioners protest proposed budget implementation

HUNDREDS of pensioners from around the country gathered yesterday in the pouring rain outside the Knesset to call on the government not to adopt a budget that would harm their livelihoods. The protest coincided with the Knesset debate on the new budget.

"Your battle is not a political one, it is a battle for justice. You are the ones we owe a debt to, because it is thanks to you that we are here today. You built the state and created all the infrastructure. It is unacceptable that the state try and harm you," Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said at the protest, which the pensioners' branch of the Histadrut organized.

Peretz said he had asked Finance Minister Dan Meridor to explain how the pensioners would be able to cover their medical expenses if the budget is implemented as is.

"Now that medications will be more expensive, will the elderly be pressured to use them less? Perhaps the finance minister thinks they will be healthier in the wake of the new law," Peretz said.

Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky,



Gideon Ben-Yisrael (right), head of the Histadrut's pensioners' branch, and hundreds of other pensioners protest opposite the Knesset against proposed budget cuts, which the Knesset debated yesterday. The placard calls on the prime minister to 'keep your promises.'

(Sari Uziel)

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, Meretz MK Anat Maor, Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal, Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, and other politicians joined the protesters. Gozansky warned MKs that in the next election the public would remember how they voted on the budget. (Ilim)

Health Ministry transfers NIS 2m. to struggling MDA

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry recently transferred NIS 2 million to Magen David Adom, which has a NIS 40m. deficit and may be unable to pay workers their October salaries this week.

Ministry associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev said the sum is the ministry's remaining debt to MDA, and that the first-aid, ambulance, and blood-supply organization is still owed considerable funds by municipalities and the health funds.

MDA management said yesterday that in addition to not having enough money to pay salaries, "dozens" of its ambulances are off the road because it cannot afford repairs and regular maintenance. In addition, there is a shortage of sterile gloves and sheets, MDA said.

The MDA workers' union declared a work dispute on Monday.

Lev said that the ministry supports MDA's demand to become a recognized emergency organization, like the Fire Service, whose budget is provided on an on-going basis by the Treasury, but without employees being state workers.

MDA underwent a painful recovery program, cutting staff and reducing the number of stations, a few years ago, but according to Lev, this "did not solve the basic funding problems."

Education Ministry adopts new system to select bagrut subjects

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE number of high school matriculation (bagrut) exams will not be increased this year, but the system for choosing which exams will be excluded has been changed, the Education Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The new system is designed to ensure that Jewish subjects and the humanities would not be deleted from the list of subjects in which the pupils are examined for a period of several years, he said.

To this end, it was decided to form three clusters of subjects: English and mathematics; Bible and civics; and history and Hebrew.

The computer which chooses the subjects in which the pupils will not be examined will be programmed so that an entire cluster cannot disappear from the list. However, the choice will remain random, as in the previous two years.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said that the choice would be made as late as technically possible so that the pupils would continue applying themselves to all subjects till near the end of the academic year. He said that only ministry and pupil representatives would be on hand when the choice is made and that a lawyer would oversee the process.

"There will be no more festivals," he said, referring to the public "lotteries" in which the exams were chosen previously.

The universities have approved the new system, Hammer added.

New BGU facility aims to fill need for telecommunications engineers

JUDY SIEGEL

PELEPHONE and Cellcom have had to hire 100 foreign telecommunications engineers to develop their infrastructure, because of the shortage of Israeli engineering graduates, according to Elisha Yamnai, managing director of Motorola-Israel.

At a ceremony marking the dedication of a department for training telecommunications systems engineers at Ben-Gurion University, Yamnai said that with the arrival of a third provider of cellular phone service (soon to be selected by public tender), the shortage of specialists will be even more severe, reaching about 150.

Yamnai added that the financial activity of the world's high-tech industries currently totals \$1 trillion a year, and 10% of the gross national product in the world is in the telecommunications field. In Israel, high-tech industry totals \$6 billion in activity, expected to multiply

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Hepatitis A serum available soon

JUDY SIEGEL

A SHIPMENT of 20,000 units of immune gamma globulin serum for preventing hepatitis A in those exposed to the virus has arrived. Promedico, the importer of the passive vaccine, said yesterday the vials will be released to hospitals, health funds, and private pharmacies immediately after they are registered and released by the Health Ministry.

Gamma globulin protects against hepatitis A, a common infection spread by direct contact or by fecal-infected food or water. It occurs most often in kindergartens and day-care centers, as well as in large families living under crowded conditions. Symptoms — including weakness and the yellowing of the skin — are unpleasant, but the disease is usually followed by a complete recovery in people not suffering from chronic illnesses.

There is a worldwide shortage of immune gamma globulin, due to the fact that it is produced from blood plasma. Because of concern that blood products could spread AIDS and hepatitis B, gamma globulin must be produced under the strictest control and supervision, and this slows production. Most countries that produce it divert supplies to their own citizens first and export the rest only when available. Promedico said it made a "special effort" to obtain the 20,000 units, which are enough to cover local needs for six months.

An active vaccination against hepatitis A is also available. More expensive but easier to obtain than immune gamma globulin, its main benefit is that it offers life-long protection from the disease.

Internet company delivers E-mail to Western Wall

WANT to E-mail God? An Israeli Internet company will place your cyberspace message in the Western Wall.

"We are getting between 15 and 20 messages a day from all over the world," Avi Moskowitz, president of Virtual Jerusalem, said yesterday. "Once a month, we go out there, take all the prayers we receive and deliver them to the Wall."

Moskowitz, originally from New York, said his company does not read the E-mail, which a computer program prints on to sheets of paper that are stuffed in the Wall's crevices along with hand-written messages left there.

The service is free and available on Virtual Jerusalem's home page at <http://www.virtual.co.il>.

The Religious Affairs Ministry has operated a prayer-faxing service to the Wall for several years.

Moskowitz said his company's site contains the largest collection of Israel and Jewish-related material on the World Wide Web and that it plans to broadcast a live video picture from the Western Wall during Hanukka. (Reuters)

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Chirac challenges the US role in the Middle East

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac's tour of the Middle East stressed the Gaullist leader's aspirations to playing a superpower role in the region. For as long as this was reflected in the media, he was achieving his target. For the first time in many years France was regarded by the world media as a superpower challenging US hegemony in the area.

A deeper study into the nature of his visit also reveals that the real attitude of the Arab countries towards Chirac's position raises doubts about whether Paris can actually join Washington as mediator in the area.

Israeli refusal to accept France as a mediator, due to its open pro-Arab declarations, is understood. But careful readings into the positions of Arab countries cannot be encouraging to France either.

Chirac decided to commence his tour in Damascus. The Syrian leadership was certainly flattered by this decision, and may consider it as a token that France regards Syria as a pivotal power. The ensuing French presidential declarations, however, made it clear to



President Jacques Chirac during his Middle East tour, in Jerusalem. (Brian Hendler)

mination for Middle Eastern nations appeared favorable to the Palestinians, but, speaking in general terms, Chirac was not careful enough to limit the principle to the Palestinians, which could raise hopes with the Kurds who are now struggling to achieve the same goal. As much as the Kurds may notice the French attitude, all other regional powers, including Turkey and Iraq, will watch it with concern.

Chirac's visit to Beirut annoyed Damascus further, when at a meeting with students at the French Cultural Center, he announced that he favored a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

President Chirac was warmly received by the Palestinian Authority. But while French declarations were staunchly pro-Palestinian, a careful reading of his address to the Palestinian Legislative Council may reveal difficulties with the Palestinians as well. Chirac stressed the need to encourage democracy in the PA as a factor for

ANALYSIS PINHAS INBARI

promoting economic development and reducing violence in the area. In this appeal he hinted at the serious difficulties between the donor countries, prominent amongst them the European countries, and the PA.

Although the donor countries are interested in having their financial support for the Palestinians invested in the economy, the PA prefers to divert it into establishing its military force.

These differences are real, not superficial, and as Europe is interested in transforming the Middle East into civil and prosperous communities - to stop immigration to Europe and to reduce fundamentalist emotions around the Mediterranean - the economic support to the Palestinians is regarded by the Europeans as especially important. The failure of this support may have serious consequences on the overall European policy in the Middle East.

This point was further emphasized in Beirut. Chirac reprimanded the



Syrian President Hafez Assad; Flattered by Chirac's visit to Damascus, annoyed by his visit to Beirut. (Reuters, file photo)

enable the return of the emigrant Lebanese community back home from their diaspora.

In his address to the Palestinian Legislative Council, Chirac only implied French concern about the fundamentalist sentiments, whereas in Amman he was more specific: He stressed that there is no conflict between the West and Islam. His speech was welcomed with applause - including by Moslem Brethren deputies - but his embrace of Arafat annoyed both the Moslem Brethren in Amman and the Jordanian government. They treated their guest well, but since he showed preference to the PA, he cannot expect an exchange from Washington to Paris.

To sum up: Chirac's tour reminded us that Europe has vital interests in the well being of and peace process in the Middle East.

But in this complicated area, balances should be carefully measured. Challenging the US raises national esteem in France, but in reality, it may turn out to be counter-productive to real European interests.

UN aid agencies alarmed at Iraqi malnutrition

EVELYN LEOPOLD

UN aid agencies expressed alarm on Monday at the lack of food, medicine and clean water in Iraq. They estimated that 4,500 children were dying monthly, partly because of stringent trade sanctions.

Of the \$39.9 million requested in a September appeal, only 4 percent (\$1.6 million) was received, from the Netherlands and from France, according to Yasushi Akashi, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

Carol Bellamy, the director of UNICEF, told a news conference that 4,500 children under five were dying each month from hunger and disease and some "modest financing" at least was needed.

UNICEF officials later said that this figure was given by the Iraqi government but nevertheless was an indication of the crisis. Other humanitarian groups said 4,500 appeared valid.

According to Catherine Bertini, director of the UN World Food Program, "The humanitarian situation throughout Iraq is dismal, and with the onset of winter, will become critical for tens of thousands of women, children and other Iraqis who already are living well below the poverty level."

Bertini said she needed \$19 million for 2.1 million "highly vulnerable" people, including 900,000 war widows, 180,000 malnourished children under five and 200,000 pregnant or nursing mothers. UNICEF needs \$10 million for essential medicine and nutritional supplements for children.

Akashi said that one reason for the paucity of funds was the expectation that an oil-for-food plan would go into effect shortly. This arrangement, still to be implemented, allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil to purchase food, medicine and other necessities in scarce supply since

UN sanctions were imposed in August 1990.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns reacted coolly to the reports. He said the administration has long felt the Iraqi people had suffered because of President Saddam Hussein's rule. "If he started taking some of that personal fortune and maybe spending it on his own population, then I think the Iraqi people would be better off. And if he hadn't thrown roadblocks in the way, UN resolution 986 [setting out the oil-for-food plan] could have gone forward long ago," Burns added. He said that US officials would review the data from aid agencies.

Humanitarian goods are exempted from the sanctions but Iraq has said that the impact of the embargoes on its infrastructure has added to the disastrous situation.

The latest delay in implementing the oil-for-food deal came after Iraq insisted on curbing the freedom of movement for UN staff, limiting their numbers and choosing local personnel to work with the UN.

Both Bertini and Bellamy said their staffs had encountered no difficulties.

Akashi said Iraq's UN envoy, Nizar Hamdoon, told him that these issues could be resolved if the Security Council's sanctions committee would approve a new oil pricing formula under which various types of petroleum would be sold.

Iraq, last Thursday, submitted a new formula. Its previous one, in August, was approved by all committee members except the US, which gave no reason for its delay.

The new appeal for Iraq was from October to December, and would be suspended or re-examined if the oil-for-food plan were implemented, Akashi said. It was to cover more than 7 million people in all parts of Iraq. (Reuters)



Czech president Vaclav Havel meets in Prague with Princess Tharwat, the wife of the Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan, during her official visit to his country. (Reuters)

Kabul's warzone zoo a going concern

JEREMY WAGSTAFF

THE only visitors to Kabul's shell-shocked zoo, these days are kids with no school to go to and Taliban fighters arriving noisily in commandeered pickups for a break from the front line.

Caught in the middle of factional fighting a few years ago, Kabul does not have much left to offer. The entrance is an unimpressive archway off one of Kabul's most heavily-bombed streets.

In the courtyard, a mangy dog as gray as the tarmac lies in the sun recovering from injuries sustained when he was mauled in the lion's lair a few days ago.

No one seems too sure how he got there, but the dog seems used to it like most of the animals here, who were wounded during the shelling Kabul has endured on and off for years.

The Islamist Taliban now rule the capital, but an alliance - which includes the ousted government - is again within shelling range.

This is not welcome news for the zoo or its keepers Naqibullah, 30, and Mohammed Aqbar, who says he "might be about 50" years old.

"We need to take care of these animals. It's a saying of the Lord that we should look after human beings and animals," says Naqibullah, who has been working here for seven years.

Throughout the zoo are signs of destruction wrought by the country's civil war. The main building is just a pockmarked shell, its concrete beams arched to the ground, the first floor entirely blasted from artillery firing from a nearby hill.

The dilapidated cages and overgrown enclosures bear little resemblance to a 1976 guidebook which describes a zoo "built according to modern concepts," offering an aquarium, zoological museum, a home to yaks, a tiny wildcat, owls, Chinese pheasants, two chimpanzees, kangaroos, raccoons, and

an Indian elephant.

Aqbar says all these have gone, although the Indian government in 1992 offered a replacement when the elephant was killed by a rocket.

"India wanted to donate an elephant but as we don't have anywhere to put it now and we couldn't afford the \$16,000 freight, we had to say no," he says ruefully.

It may be just as well. Those animals that have survived years of bombardment and hardship do not look in good shape. One of the bears still carries shrapnel in a paw.

The male lion became blind after a man, taking revenge for when it mauled a cousin who entered the den on a dare, threw a grenade in his face. Only the monkeys seem playful enough, leaping around their cage as Taliban fighters and children watch. Naqibullah mildly cuffs a youngster for teasing one of the monkeys.

The worst damage was caused between 1992 and 1994, the two keepers say, when they had to dig a trench from the river so they could creep in to feed the animals as the zoo was in the middle of a free-fire zone. "I remember when I wanted to bring meat for the animals but because of the intensity of the firing I was not even able to cross the road," says Naqibullah.

Of 95 animals and birds the zoo boasted in 1983, only a handful remain, including four Afghan rabbits, two Afghan geese, two Afghan monkeys, one Afghan fox, three Afghan bears and an Afghan pig, which at 20 years old is the zoo's oldest resident.

The last Afghan deer perished two years ago, either from shrapnel wounds or through theft by a hungry neighbor.

The last member of the bird

No looking allowed for Sudan's men, women

MOHAMED OSMAN

THE city government in Khartoum has issued a wide-ranging law designed to enforce the separation of men and women in public places and ban certain practices perceived as un-Islamic.

A new "public order law," which was made public this month, requires physical barriers between men and women at such social events as weddings, parties and picnics, and orders that they not sit facing each other.

It also requires buses to display a verse from the Koran asking Moslems to not look at members of the opposite sex. The law specifies streets must be well-lit to prevent couples from escaping into the darkness.

The law, issued by the Khartoum Council, did not say what the punishments would be, but the tone was reminiscent of Iran's enforcement of strict Islamic laws after the 1979 revolution. The council urged a media campaign to explain the law to the public.

The law was apparently inspired by President Omar el-Bashir's Moslem fundamentalist government. Sharia, or Islamic law, was adopted in Sudan in 1983, but it was given a new thrust when el-Bashir took power in a bloodless coup in 1989.

However, an earlier attempt to enforce what the government saw as Islamic dress for women - wearing the veil to cover the hair - was rejected by Sudanese women, who

did not want to give up their colorful "tobes," flowing gowns similar to Indian saris.

The new law does not enforce wearing the veil, but it ordered women working in restaurants not to wear jewelry or perfume. Women who do late-night shopping must be accompanied by a male relative.

There were also other requirements. Men should cover their bodies well, apparently not to create temptation, and not lurk outside girls' schools.

Women cannot sit near the driver on buses. Male students must be separated from females in private schools, as they already are in public schools.

Card playing is prohibited in public in line with Islamic strictures on gambling. Women's sporting events must be held in private, and the athletes cannot wear tight-fitting clothes. Women performing Sudanese folk dances must wear long, loose-fitting costumes.

Bashir's government has exempted Sudan's southern Christians from Islamic laws, and consideration is being given to extending the exemption to Christians in the Moslem-majority north.

The adoption of the strict law by the city government in the capital raised the prospect that other Moslem-majority cities would adopt similar laws. However, it was not clear such a move was planned. (AP)

Germans say they found Alexandria's royal quarter

ARCHEOLOGISTS based in Germany said recently they had discovered traces of the royal quarter of the ancient city of Alexandria, where Mark Antony wooed Cleopatra, the last pharaoh of an independent Egypt.

They said in a faxed statement that a team led by marine archeologist Franck Goddio found the quarter in the eastern harbor of the Egyptian city.

But they declined to give details until a news conference by Goddio in Alexandria on November 3.

Marine archeologists led by Frenchman Jean Yves Empereur have been retrieving ancient statuary from the northwestern cor-

ner of the eastern harbor, close to where the Pharos or lighthouse stood in classical times.

Textbooks say the palace enclosure was built on al-Silsilah, a promontory that marks the eastern edge of the eastern harbor, but no remains are visible on land today.

Alexandria was built for the Macedonian warrior Alexander the Great from the late fourth century BCE.

The Ptolemies, a dynasty founded by one of his generals, ruled Egypt from the city until the Roman invasion and it remained the capital of the country until the Arab conquest in the seventh century CE. (Reuters)

Yemen to face population explosion

YEMEN must immediately implement family-planning programs or face a population explosion, the head of the country's Population Council said Saturday.

Mohammed Al Haj said Yemen's present population of around 17 million could rise to over 31 million by the year 2012.

Addressing a population conference currently held in San'a, the Yemeni capital, he said that 1,800 babies are born every day in Yemen. (AP)

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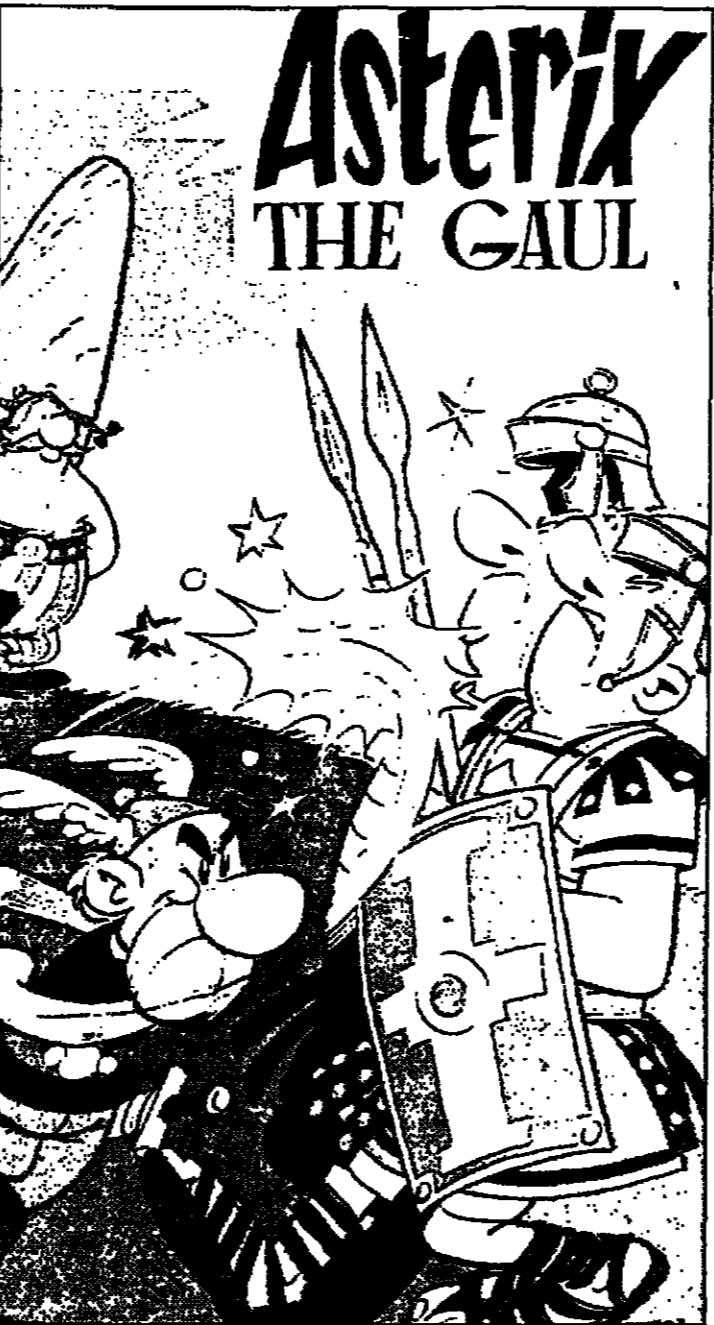
Angry advice

MOSHE ZAK

HOSNI Mubarak's declaration that he won't step down until Israel withdraws from most of the territories was a message too much for Israel's leadership... Mubarak was showing the PLO leader by example how to drag out a Hebron deal... Do as I do, was Mubarak's implicit message. Come out with a new demand - a sweeping territorial withdrawal - before the present crisis blows over... Mubarak's threat to Israel is not a bluff... He won't meet with Netanyahu... etc. etc. etc.

High French art in the form of a comic book

THE New Asterix Has Arrived! headlined the daily Le Parisien an unveiled reference to the annual uncorking of Beaujolais wine. It may just be a comic book, but the new adventures of Asterix have hit French bookstores with all the impact of a national cultural event. Kids and adults alike, raised on the adventures of the diminutive Gallic hero and his sidekick Obelix, snapped up copies of La Galerie d'Obelix ("Obelix's Gallery Ship"). Some bookstores sold out. The new 48-page album ended a five-year silence by creator Albert Uderzo, the co-creator who had professed creative burnout. Demand for a comeback was overwhelming in a country where literature and comic books are both considered high art. France even boasts a comic book museum in Angoulême. The Asterix cast of plucky characters are familiar to French children. The sturdy warriors of ancient Gaul, who grin and quip their way through battles with hapless Roman invaders, are the heroes of TV cartoons too. A five-action feature starring Gerard Depardieu is in the works. Recent polls show that Asterix is the best-known character in Europe, beating Mickey Mouse and Belgium's Tintin. The new Asterix, the 30th in a series which began in 1959, is filled with suspense and surprise as the Gallic duo again face adversity in Roman times.

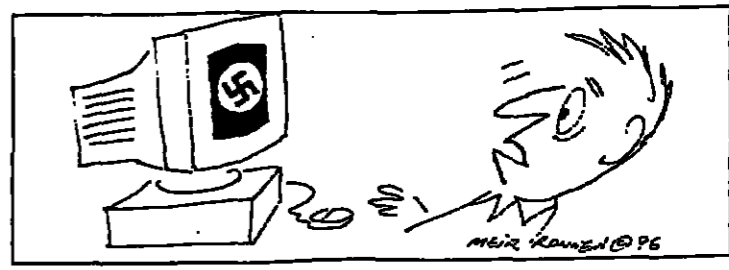


Around the world, some 280 Asterix stories under the pen of Rene Goscinny and the paintbrushes of Albert Uderzo have been sold in 77 languages.

...that the French can compete by being themselves," respected writer Jean Dutourd told the daily Le Figaro. "Asterix is full of wit and very French." (AP)

Antisemites take to the Net

The World Wide Web is being used for world wide hate, Ronda Robinson reports



WELCOME to the Alpha web site. The primary purpose for this site is to provide Aryans world wide with an on-line database of information on issues that concern our people. Everything from general racial issues and religion to survival are covered... America has been overrun with a non-White invasion, bringing to a spearhead the ever growing White Nationalist movement... We at Alpha seek radical change in the present system and the ultimate establishment of a racial homeland for our people.

the spawn of Satan, claims Christian Identity, which some experts now regard as the dominant religiously-oriented group of the extreme right in North America. "Social scientists have had a precious opportunity to observe this Satanic myth grow," Wasserstrom said. "First, observers have been able to watch it evolve in action on the World Wide Web. This new form of research has proved that it can also serve a serious purpose for the history of religions." Wasserstrom is among 20 scholars who dissected the faces of 19th- and 20th-century antisemitism at the conference, which was jointly sponsored by the HU and the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen of Germany. According to Dr. Leon Volovici, of the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism at the Hebrew University, the intent was to foster joint research between the two universities. Scholars of Jewish and German history, philosophy and literature, as well as organizations devoted to Holocaust memorial, were invited. This is the first time the Vidal Sassoon Center had collaborated with the German university. Wasserstrom's lecture was on "From Ahriman to ZOG: the Jews as Planetary Antagonist in Archetype and Stereotype." ZOG, an acronym for the Zionist, Occupation Government, was coined in the mid-1980s. "ZOG provided a brilliant rhyme on the apocalyptic Gog and Magog, while simultaneously sounding, to the American ear, like some dumb but nonetheless intimidating kind of lumbering beast," Wasserstrom said. ZOG is the latest version of an old conspiracy theory in which Jews are said to run the American government and are blamed for every disaster. It's also evidence of a revival of Nazism and fascism in America and Europe, said Wasserstrom. He calls the myth of "world-monster Jew" a collectively fabricated weapon in a cultural war. "If they can wipe away journalism, Hollywood, the intellectualism they associate with Jews, they can get back to a pure state," he said of the hate groups' mentality. With the approach of the millennium, many groups are stirring up images of the Antichrist, the world leader they believe must be defeated at the end of civilization. They see the Jew as the Antichrist and modern times as the end of history. For Nazis, the Jew was and is the classic version of this ultimate enemy. Wasserstrom said, explaining the timeliness of the anti-semitism conference in Israel. With a few pecks of their fingertips, leaders of Christian Identity and other hate groups are calling for war on ZOG. Wasserstrom found this cry on the Internet recently: "Volksfront is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of Aryan heritage in North America... The Volksfront would like to dedicate our first page to all the soldiers who are fighting within the walls and cages of ZOG. To all who fight for our righteous cause we salute you!" Wasserstrom reports that such propaganda flourishes on the Internet. He sees it as dangerous, but doesn't fear it. "Many people can become far more easily educated in hate propaganda than they ever could before," he admitted. "However, all other points of view also are better represented, so in the end it may be a wash."

Beyond the bowels

PARENTING RUTH MASON

My three-and-a-half-year-old son has been bladder-trained since age two-and-a-half, and is dry at night about 50 percent of the time. However, he is not yet toilet trained. He refuses a diaper, the potty and the toilet. I have tried everything (commenting, not commenting, rewards and incentives, the "big boy" routine), and I remind him constantly. He tells me he does not need to, and then a few minutes later he hides and does it in his pants. I have never punished him - except for voicing my disapproval. I've tried changing him immediately and leaving him in his mess for hours. Now I have refused to clean him and have told him that if he wants to soil himself he must clean himself. He will be four at the end of the summer, and my husband and I feel that he should be trained by then. Generally, he is a happy child. He goes to nursery school and has never soiled himself there. He has an eight-month-old sibling, but I no longer accept this to be the cause of the problem. Please help us, we are all getting desperate. Alan Flashman, M.D., child and adult psychiatrist, replies: Your question suggests that you both feel something is amiss, and I agree. Since your son has no accidents in school, and has enough control to hide when he moves his bowels, it is unlikely that there is a physical problem with development. Now, when bowels are only bowels, small children go right along and actually would just as soon be trained. So let's assume that his bowels have come to assume some additional meanings to your son. What could these meanings be? You are probably right that a very simple reduction of bowels to jealousy of his eight-month-old sibling would be too simple. I assume that you are right because you are there and have already explored such a line with no convincing results. However, the sibling came about through a process that small children find enormously interesting, and surrounded by all kinds of misunderstandings. The most common misunderstanding is equating a mother's pregnant belly with the child's own distended tummy after eating. According to this logic, pregnancy is acquired by eating. The other end of this misunderstanding is that babies come out where things usually come out, that is, they are excreted from the anus. According to the logic of a small child, a distended belly, such as the one he has to contend with prior to evacuation, could end up in excreting a baby. Your son is asking for your help with two problems. The first involves the extra meanings that make his bowels unmanageable. The second and more important problem involves his feeling that his soul has become unknowable - to himself and to you. I think his hiding is a way of expressing the fact that he feels a mystery to himself and to you. He is asking for more than training, and he is asking for it from the only people who can provide what he needs: A sense that he can be understandable to you and to himself. He has brought you to the point of curiosity, and he is inviting you to search with him not for the single reason for his behavior, but rather for a variety of special meanings that he needs help in getting to know and to be known by you. Since his behavior is a vote of confidence in your ability to help him, I would rather assume his vote is correct. So don't sell yourselves - or him - short, because you don't yet have the answer. Become curious and explorative with him if you feel you can. Go for help to restore this curiosity if you feel you are becoming swamped with frustration. Don't settle for less than restoring to yourselves a firm inner feeling of security that you and your son can sort out and solve this mystery that he has temporarily become. Clarification regarding last week's column: The fact that our children's rooms overflow with toys and that parents often try to become their children's friends were not necessarily seen as positive developments. Readers were asked whether they think we, as a society, have become too child-centered, and if so, what can be done about this.

Russians settle nicely into US democratic life

FELIX Andreev never dreamed he would vote in a democratic election, let alone for a US president. Most people in the town of Brighton Beach, on the Atlantic shoreline just a few miles from New York city, probably feel the same. Known as "Little Odessa," this is a small piece of Russia that has taken firm root in the US. Built up by Soviet Jews who first came in the early 1970s, it is now a bustling community of around 60,000 people. The shops sell Russian vodka, sausages, smoked fish and pickles beneath signs in Cyrillic script, while kiosks do a brisk trade in Russian-language newspapers and books. Close your eyes to shut out the American cars and clothes, listen to people talk in the street or on the boardwalk near the beach and you could be in Moscow. Andreev, a prominent community leader who helps set up local businesses, won US citizenship this year after defecting while on a trip to San Francisco six years ago. For the first time, he can vote in the US presidential election on November 5. "It is a strange feeling, but I will use my vote. We believe in it, we believe in the American dream. We are natural patriots in this land," he said. "We feel very proud to vote, this is our country," said Tanya Rosenberg, who works at a travel agency. Andreev, a 59-year-old former journalist, thinks most Russians who have become US citizens would vote for President Bill Clinton, since the Democrats take a more generous line on immigration and social benefits than the Republicans. But there are others who feel attracted to the Republicans, with memories of their tough line against the Soviet Union during the Cold War, particularly under president Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. Since many are Jews, they are also drawn by what they believe to be the Republicans' strong support for Israel. "These people endorse the language of might, there are plenty who are very right-wing on foreign policy," said Ilya Levkov, who runs a Russian publishing house in New York. Altogether more than a million people from the former Soviet Union live in the US - Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians, Balts, Armenians. Brighton Beach is the closest they have to a capital. It lies just a few kilometers from the Statue of Liberty, the symbol of America's status as a land of immigrants. A fashionable resort for New Yorkers in the 19th century, the town was blighted by crime and depression when a few Soviet Jewish families settled there in the 1970s. The streets are lined with businesses, restaurants and nightclubs. There are Russian radio and television stations and more than 30 Russian-language newspapers. Unemployment and crime rates are low, educational standards high. Some people go back to Russia or other former Soviet republics to visit relatives, if they have the money. But the most popular travel destinations, according to Rosenberg, are Israel and Washington. "People like to travel, because it shows they are free," she said. (Reuters)

SYRIA AND ISRAEL - From War to Peace-making

Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp. JP Price NIS 149 plus NIS 6 p & h in Israel To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000 Please send me Syria and Israel by Moshe Ma'oz. Enclosed is my check for NIS 155 payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details: VISA ISRACARD DINERS AMEX CC No. Exp. Name Address City Code Tel. (day) JD No. Signature

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stocks drop as traders watch peace talks

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCKS dropped for a third day as investors focused on the stalled talks on Hebron. The 0.3% cut in interest rates by the Bank of Israel Monday failed to affect stocks significantly. 'We had the interest rates - it was a disappointment - and now that a story is finished,' said Ron Weisberg, a trader at Israel Brokerage, and investments in Tel Aviv. 'We still have a cloud.'

The market was led down by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which shed 4%, and Koor Industries, off 1.25%. Teva accounts for nearly 10% of the value of the Maof Index. Nice Systems Ltd., which produces digital voice-recording and archiving systems, sank 9.25%.

Under pressure from the start after a sharp reversal in US stocks overnight, stronger-than-expected UK money supply figures added to the downward mood, which was further reinforced by another disappointing performance in New York in the afternoon. The FTSE 100 closed at 3,993.5, a fall of 31.8 points but above the day's lows of 3,988.9.

PARIS - French stocks fell 1.15 percent after weakness in the dollar, bond prices and concerns that German interest rates may rise drove the bourse's blue-chip CAC-40 index through important support levels. The CAC-40 index finished down 24.65 points at 1,215.74.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed floor trade weaker after the dollar weakened against the mark and as Wall Street losses and comments by German economic institutes held the market back. The DAX index of 30 leading shares reversed gains made on Monday when it had reached above the crucial 2,700 point mark, to end down 30.21 points at 2,673.62. In post-bourse trade the index fell 27.83 to 2,675.50.

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CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, PFF and corresponding rates.

PARIS (Continued from Page 1) Netanyahu at a stormy meeting with faction chairmen last night. 'We cannot find a practical solution for every demand by tomorrow. Nor can we make fools of ourselves (by postponing the vote)... We have two months until the final reading, and things will be cleared up by then.'

When Gesher chairman Maxim Levy retorted that there is no reason to believe anything will change in the next two months, as nothing has changed in the past four, Meridor also lost his temper. Gesher scheduled a meeting with him last week, he noted, and only one MK, Michael Kleiner, bothered to show up. Klaus, United Torah Judaism, and the National Religious Party, which had also been considering voting against the budget earlier in the day, decided last night to support it after Meridor agreed that the religious public was discriminated against in certain budget areas, and said he favored correcting this discrimination.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized into Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

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Table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark against the NIS.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table of New York market indices including DJ Industrial, DJ Utility, NYSE Index, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indices like FTSE 100, Nikkei, and others.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks listed in the US market, including companies like Bank Leumi, etc.

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Table of LIBOR rates for various terms and currencies.

LIBOR RATES

Table of LIBOR rates for various terms and currencies.

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Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

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Table of London metal fix prices.

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